

INTELL. LIBRARY

WELLINGTON (SALOP)

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
for 1925.

Wellington, Salop:

John Jones & Son, The Lawns Printing Works, Park Street.



1925.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

The Medical Officer of Health.

To the Wellington Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report on the Sanitary circumstances and administration, and the Vital Statistics of the district for the year ending December 31st, 1925.

The Memorandum of the Ministry of Health directs that a Survey Report should be prepared dealing with (a) The measure of progress made in the area during the preceding five years in the improvement of Public Health ; (b) The extent and character of the changes made during that period in the Public Health services of the area ; (c) Any further action of importance in the organisation and development of Public Health services contemplated by the Local Authority, or considered desirable by the Medical Officer of Health.

Nature and Social conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	..	...	...	33,742
Population (Census 1921)	...	...	...	11,207
Population estimated 1925	...	...	...	11,300
Number of Inhabited houses (1921)	...	...	...	2,519
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)	...	...	...	2 556
Assessable Value	...	...	...	£49,125
Proceeds of a penny rate	...	...	...	£250 12s. 9d.

The district embraces eleven parishes and is rural in character with an average of one person to three acres. The northern portion is on the Shropshire Plain and overlays the Bunter Beds of the New Red Sandstone. It is entirely agricultural. The southern portion rises rapidly from an elevation on the Plain of about 150 O.D. to 600 O.D. The south-eastern area, composed of the parishes Ketley, Hadley and Lawley, house a population engaged in the works that are scattered through these parishes and in the neighbouring districts. The industries are chiefly Ironworks, Brickworks, with a few small Coal Pits and Stone Quarries.

Vital Statistics.

There were 202 births during the year, 102 males and 100 females. The resulting Birth-rate is 17.8, the average of the previous five years was 20.9, and the rate for England and Wales for the year 18.3. Fourteen of the births were illegitimate, equal to 6.9 per cent. There has been a continuous fall in the birth-rate during the last six years, due no doubt to several causes, amongst them the continued high cost of food plays an important part.

One hundred and twenty four deaths took place in the year, giving a death-rate of 10.9 per thousand of the population. This is the Crude Death-rate, but Registrar-General has provided the factor .806 for finding the corrected Rate 8.7. The average death-rate for the preceding five years 12.6, and the rate for England and Wales for the year 12.2. The chief causes of death were:—Whooping Cough 1; Influenza 5; Meningococcal Meningitis 1; Tuberculosis of respiratory system 9; Cancer 11; Diabetes 2; Cerebral Hemorrhage 8; Heart Disease 14; Arterio Sclerosis 1; Bronchitis 12; Pneumonia 15; other Respiratory Diseases 1; Appendicitis 2; Nephritis 3; Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth 5; Suicide 3; other deaths from Violence 4; other defined diseases 27.

The death-rate was lower than it has been for many years. There were no outstanding causes of death, Influenza was the only Zymotic disease prevalent and this was responsible for five deaths. Forty-eight deaths were in persons over 70 years of age nineteen being between 80 and 90 and five over 90.

Death-rates for Tuberculosis and Cancer, 1919-1925.

Year.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other Tuberculosis Diseases.	Cancer.
1919	.4	.1	.7
1920	1.3	Nil.	1.3
1921	.8	.4	1.4
1922	.8	.4	2.0
1923	.8	.2	1.9
1924	.7	.1	1.4
1925	.7	Nil.	.9
Average	.8	.17	1.3

Infantile Mortality.

The Infantile Mortality Rate is 69 per thousand births for the year. It is based on 14 deaths from the following causes:—Premature Birth 3; Congenital Debility 1; Congenital Heart Disease 1; Pneumonia 4; Whooping Cough 1; Convulsions 1; Pemphigus 1; Injury at Birth 1; Natural Causes 1.

The Rate 69 is slightly above the average of the previous five years, viz: 62, but well below the rate for England and Wales for 1925, which was 75.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Hospitals provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or by the County Council:—

1.—Tuberculosis. (*a*) Shirlett Sanatorium; (*b*) Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry; (*c*) Prees Heath Sanatorium for advanced cases.

2.—Maternity. Beds are maintained at Newport Nursing Home and in Shrewsbury.

3.—Childrens. Home for Ailing Babies.

4.—Fever. Monkmoor Hospital, Shrewsbury.

5.—Smallpox. Situated at Steeraway in the district. Accommodation 10 beds and nurses quarters.

6.—Eye Hospital, Shrewsbury. Available for cases of Ophthalmia, &c.

All the Hospitals are either maintained or subsidized by the County Council except the Fever Hospital, which belongs to Shrewsbury and Atcham Rural District, with which the local authority has made arrangements for receiving cases from the district at a charge of £3 3s. a week. An arrangement has been made by the County Council for the admission of unmarried mothers and illegitimate children, into the Legge Memorial Home, Wolverhampton.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

For the removal of infectious disease, the County Council Ambulance is available on payment of mileage rate and disinfection, and for accident and non-infectious cases the ambulance of the Wellington Urban Council can be hired.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The Wellington and District Maternity and Child Welfare Centre provide for this area, is situated in Walker Street, Wellington. It is controlled by Local Committee and maintained by public subscription and grants from the Urban and Rural District Councils and the Ministry. The County Council provide the premises, Medical Officer and Nurse.

The School Clinic, Tuberculosis Dispensary, Dental and Orthopædic Clinics are all carried on in the same premises and serve the Rural District. They are maintained by the County Council. There is no day nursery. The premises consist of ten rooms and are well adapted for the purpose.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority are : (a) the Medical Officer of Health, who is wholly engaged in Public Health work, and (b) Mr. Blakeway Phillips, the Sanitary Inspector, who is also Surveyor for the district, and holds the Certificate of the Sanitary Institute. A contribution is made under the Public Health Acts to the salary of both these officers by the Ministry.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

GENERAL.

This is carried out by District Nurses, who are maintained by Local Nursing Associations in the following parishes :—Wrockwardine & Eyton, Bolas & Waters Upton, Kynnersley & Preston, and Hadley.

MIDWIVES.

The Local Authority do not employ or subsidize any Midwives. There are 16 in practice in the district.

Legislation in Force.

No adoptive Acts are in force in the district, there are By-laws in respect to New Streets and Buildings, Nuisances, Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER.

During the period under survey about 20 houses and the schools at Ketley have been connected to the Harrington Supply, belonging to the Borough of Wenlock. They were previously supplied from the Wellington Urban Mains, but owing to the intermittency of the supply, complaints were constantly being received.

New Dale.—Water has been brought to this hamlet (25 houses) by the extension of the main from Lawley Schools. It was previously supplied by a spring piped under agricultural land and during its conveyance, was at times, grossly polluted by manurial matter.

At Aston the estate supply has been piped to a group of cottages previously using a well on the road-side and contaminated by surface water.

About six houses at Hadley dependent on wells previously, have been connected to the public supply.

New Works, which is dependent on a well more than a mile away for its drinking water, should I think, be dealt with, even if the water has to be pumped up

Arleston Village (about 20 houses) now dependent on a well, should be connected to the Wellington Urban mains, in whose water area it is. At present, water has to be carried a very considerable distance by some of the houses.

During the year seven houses were connected to the public water supply, one public well was put in repair and six private wells reconstructed.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There has been a steady improvement in the house drainage during the last five years, each year has shown a record of many schemes of reconstruction, which will be of great benefit to the tenants. The three Sewage Disposal works at Hadley, Horton and Admaston, have been carried on satisfactorily during the period.

A scheme for dealing with the sewage at Lawley Bank, where the discharge from about 30 houses at present is on to private land, has been agreed on with the neighbouring Council of Dawley. Tanks and filter beds are to be installed.

There is no public scavenging in the district, but tips for the deposit of house refuse are provided by the Council at Hadley and Ketley.

Careful attention is given by the Inspector in preventing offensive accumulations, and during the year, 98 notices were given to owners for this purpose.

Where a sewer and water supply are available, the substitution of the water carriage for the conservancy system should be strongly pressed. At Hadley, the abolition of insanitary types of privy accommodation should be proceeded with as a definite policy. The value of these measures in improving the public health of a district has been repeatedly established.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Summary of the sanitary work carried out during the year, compiled by Mr. Phillips, is given at the end of the Report.

One Statutory and seventy Informal notices were served, and fifty-seven complied with. The work carried out included the conversion of three privies to water closets with a number of others repaired and drains reconstructed. Seven houses have been connected to the public water supply, and seven public or private wells put in repair. Two houses have been connected to the public sewer and 450 yards of new sewer laid, also 31 houses in a bad sanitary condition have been dealt with.

Housing.

I. GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS IN THE AREA.

General Housing conditions :—

These are on the whole good in the agricultural parishes, but in need of improvement in the industrial area.

There is a shortage of houses, most marked in Ketley district but also in most of the rural area. The Council are building four at Ketley and a dozen at Ellerdine.

II. OVERCROWDING.

According to the Census, overcrowding is very prevalent in the Wellington Rural parishes as the result of the small size of the cottages, and lack of bedroom accommodation. Three cases were dealt with during the year, they generally are the result of two families in one house. Until more three bedroom cottages are available, overcrowding due to large families in small houses will continue.

III. FITNESS OF HOUSES.

The general standard of housing in the agricultural parishes is good, with here and there an ancient one that requires a demolition order. More frequently in industrial area, are cottages that are in bad condition through neglect of the owners, and also due to acts of waste and neglect of the tenants. The great majority of the defective cottages are dealt with by informal notices, which are as a rule successful.

IV. UNHEALTHY AREAS.

There are no area in the district that could be scheduled as unhealthy.

Housing Statistics for the year, 1925.

Number of houses erected during the year :

- (a) Total 9.
- (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :
 - (1) By the Local Authority ... 0
 - (2) By other persons 9

1. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

Inspection.

- (1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects ... 357
- (2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1919 ... 31

(3)	Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous and injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	...	5
(4)	Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	... ..	26

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of in- formal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	57
--	--	--------	----

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS :

(a)	Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925	... ..	0
(b)	Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :		
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served re- quiring defects to be remedied	...	1
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :		
	(a) by owner	... ..	1
(c)	Proceedings under Section 11, 14 & 15, Housing Act, 1925	... ..	0

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.

There are 49 Milksellers on the Register, and there is an excellent supply of milk produced in the district and a good deal is exported to the large towns.

No action was taken by the Council under the Milk and Dairies (Consolidated) Act, 1915, or under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922. Seventy inspections were made of the Cowsheds and Dairies, and twelve notices were served in regard to ventilation, lighting, structure of floors, drainage and cleanliness, and ten were complied with.

(1) No complaint was received of any tuberculosis milk exported from the district, and no licenses were applied for, for the sale of milk under special designations, and there was no refusal or revocation of registration of retailers.

(b) Meat.

(1) The meat is inspected by Mr. Blakeway Phillips, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, who has been appointed by the Council, Meat Inspector for the district. He makes such inspections as his other duties will allow, and complete inspection is not possible in such a wide district. No meat was condemned during the year.

These are no stalls in the district, but the shops, stores and carts generally conform to the Regulations of 1924.

The following Slaughterhouses are in existence in the district :

	In 1920.	In Jan. 1925.	In Dec. 1925.
Registered	4	4	4
Licensed	9	8	8
	—	—	—
Total	13	12	12
	—	—	—

(c) Other Foods.

The Sanitary condition of the Bakehouses has been found satisfactory.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Notification during 1920—1924 inclusive.

Disease.	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	Total
Diphtheria ..	6	3	5	6	4	24
Scarlet Fever ...	8	7	9	34	14	72
Erysipelas ...	7	3		2	1	13
Pneumonia ...	6	3	11	11	28	59
Ceretrospinal F. ...		1				1
Encephalitis } Lethargica }	1			1		2
Puerperal Fever ...	1	1			2	4
Ophthalmia } Neonatorum }	3				2	5
Malaria ..	2		1	1		4
Enteric Fever ...			3	1	1	5
Polomyelitis ...				1		1

DIPHTHERIA.

Diphtheria has been of a mild type with no deaths, there has been no epidemic and mostly sporadic cases. Antitoxin is supplied by the Council and is in general use, and bacteriological examination of the throat secretion is invariably done.

SCARLET FEVER.

There has been only one epidemic in the five years and no deaths. The spread of the disease has been almost invariably associated with school attendance. In two instances Hospital isolation was considered necessary.

The four cases of Malaria were all a recurrence of disease acquired abroad.

Bacteriological and Pathological specimens are examined at Birmingham University under an arrangement made by the County Council. Full advantage is taken of it for diagnostic purposes and for preventive measures.

No use has been made in the area of the tests known as the Schick and Dick tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever respectively, or of the artificial methods of immunization against these diseases.

Notifiable Diseases during the year 1925.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	15	3	0
Diphtheria	4	0	0
Erysipelas	3	0	0
Pneumonia	22	0	15
Ceretro-spinal Fever ...	1	0	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	0
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	1	0	0

Tuberculosis 1925.

Age Period	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
20	1	2	—	—	1	2	—	—
25	2	1	1	—	2	—	—	—
35	4	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
45	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
55	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	10	7	4	2	7	2	—	—

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

June 1st, 1926.

ALFRED E. WHITE.

The following is an Account furnished by the Sanitary Inspector, of Sanitary Work for the Year ending 31st Dec., 1925, in the Wellington Rural Sanitary District.

a Number of houses which have been inspected during the above period, either in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, or in consequence of complaints, or in the course of a systematic Sanitary Survey ... 357

a Please note that this number should include all houses inspected, including those under the Housing and Town Planning Act, but not houses that are visited for another purpose without an inspection of the premises.

Number of legal notices sent	...	...	1
Number of informal notices sent	...	...	70
Number of such notices complied with	...	...	57
Number of letters written	...	...	83

Particulars of Sanitary Matters referred to in the above Notices :—

(a) Houses to be disinfected after infectious disease	...	...	28
(b) Deficient or objectionable water supply			11
(c) New drains to be constructed or old drains to be amended	...	...	25
(d) New closets to be provided or old ones to be amended in construction		...	17
(e) Houses damp or dirty, or admitting rain, or weather, or otherwise in a bad sanitary condition	...	...	31
(f) Offensive accumulations of all kinds	...		98
(g) Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	...		0
(h) Houses overcrowded	...	...	3

Houses disinfected after infectious disease (other than phthisis) ...	...	...	17
Houses disinfected in cases of phthisis ...	...	...	11
Privies converted to water closets ...	...	...	3
Privies converted to earth closets ...	...	...	0
Plans for new houses passed ...	...	...	11
Certificates issued for water supply to new houses ...	...	...	13
Houses connected to public water supply ...	...	...	7
Repairs to public pumps and wells ...	...	...	1
New public wells ...	...	...	0
Private wells re-constructed or improved ...	...	...	6
Houses connected to public sewerage ...	...	...	2
Lengths of new sewers laid ...	...	450 yds.	
Lengths of new water mains laid ...	...	0 yds.	

Signed, R. BLAKEWAY PHILLIPS,

Inspector.

WELLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT.

Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total ...	...	9
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919, 1923 or 1924 :		
(i) By the Local Authority ...	...	0
(ii) By other bodies or persons ...	...	9

1. *Unfit dwelling-houses.*

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 357

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 ... 31

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	5
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	26
2. <i>Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notices.</i>		
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	57
3. <i>Action under Statutory Powers.</i>		
A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1919.		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs		0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :		
(a) by owners	... ..	0
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	... ..	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	... ..	0
B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notice were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	70
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—		
(a) by owners	.. ..	57
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	... ..	0

C.—Proceedings unders sections 17 and 18 of the
Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Order ...	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which defects Closing Orders were made ...	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit...	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	0
(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	0

*Inspection of Dairies Cowsheds and Milkshops for the
Year ended 31st December, 1925, in the Wellington Rural
Sanitary District.*

Number of cowkeepers and milksellers on register ...	49
Number of premises—cowsheds ...	103
dairies ...	49
milkshops ...	0
Numbers of inspections ...	70
Defects found (1) in cowsheds —	
(a) floor or cubic space ...	0
(b) ventilation ...	3
(c) lighting ...	2
(d) structure of floor ...	11
(e) drainage ...	1
(f) cleanliness ...	8

(2)	in surroundings of cowsheds	...	8
(3)	in sanitary condition of drains	...	0
(4)	in sanitary condition of milkshops	...	0
(5)	in water supply	.. ..	0
Number of notices—verbal and written			12
Number of these notices complied with			10
Number of defects found and not yet remedied			2

Signed, R. BLAKEWAY PHILLIPS,

Sanitary Inspector.

*Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year
1925, for the Rural District of Wellington.*

1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces :

Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	...	5
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	...	11
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	...	0

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces :

Want of cleanliness	...	...	...	2
Remedied	...	...	..	2
Referred to H.M. Inspector	...	...	...	2

Signed, A. E. WHITE,

June 1st, 1926.

Medical Officer of Health.

